

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 remain pending in this application with claims 1, 4, 7-9, 11-14 and 17-19 being amended by this response. Claims 1, 4, 7-9, 11-14 and 17-19 have been amended for purposes of clarification. The amendments to these claims clarify that the data segment is stored at a user system connected to the network and information identifying the stored data segment is transmitted to a remote location. The remote location transmits the information to each of the other user systems connected to the network. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification and specifically discussed in the flow chart of Figure 5 and the accompanying description in the specification on Page 9, line 5- Page 12, line 22.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11-12, 14, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11-12, 14, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Moynihan (US 2002/0056119 A1).

The present invention recites a method and apparatus for sharing information in a network. A user is enabled to define a data segment and the defined data segment is recorded at one of a plurality of user systems connected to the network. First information identifying the defined data segment is transmitted to a remote location. Second information identifying the defined data segment is received from the remote location, at each of the plurality of user systems connected to the network. Independent claims 1, 9 and 14 include features similar to those discussed above.

The present claimed invention relates to a network in which the shared information is stored on individual user systems within the network. A user initiates recording and storing of a data segment and transmits information identifying the data segment to a remote central server. The remote central server then transmits information identifying the data segments to each of the user systems connected to the network. Therefore, the present claimed invention eliminates the need to transmit the entire data segment for sharing with other user systems connected to the network.

Rather, the present invention may simply send a marker/identifying information regarding the data segment for access by other user systems. The present claimed invention thus allows users to share data segments such as television program highlights of interest without the need for large amounts of bandwidth to transmit the data segments. The present claimed invention also reduces the amount of memory recorded for each user to store shared data segments. Each user only need store the identifying information.

Moynihan describes a method and system for providing users "on a network [the ability] to organize, edit, index, host and display multimedia files on a central server" (Para 0015, lines 1-2). "The system transmits multimedia files to a server where the files are [then] converted into a form that makes it easy for others to hear or view them" (Para 0016, lines 2-4). However, Moynihan neither discloses nor suggests "recording the defined data segment at one of a plurality of user systems connected to the network" as in the present claimed invention. Moynihan actually transmits the data to a common server. Additionally, Moynihan neither discloses nor suggests "transmitting first information identifying the defined data segment to a remote location" as in the present claimed invention. Furthermore, Moynihan neither discloses nor suggests "receiving from the remote location, at each of the plurality of user systems connected to the network, second information identifying the defined data segment" as in the present claimed invention.

The Examiner suggests that Moynihan discloses the transmission of first information identifying the position of the data segment within a data stream to a remote location. However, Moynihan merely discloses a user's ability to access a central server on the internet and upload their video data (Fig. 3, steps 2-3). Furthermore, Moynihan is directed towards a network in which information must be transmitted from a user to a central network server in order to be shared. This system requires a rather large bandwidth to ensure transmissions between necessary components. This is contrary to the objective of the present claimed invention. The present claimed invention only transmits identifying information identifying the stored

data segment thereby eliminating the need for the large amount of bandwidth required to transmit the data of Moynihan.

As claims 3, 5-7, 11-12, 16 and 18 are dependant on Independent claims 1, 9 and 14 they are respectfully submitted as allowable for the same reasons as discussed above in regards to claims 1, 9 and 14. In view of the above remarks it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 5-7, 11-12, 16 and 18 are also allowable.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure in Moynihan showing the above discussed features of independent claims 1, 9 and 14. It is thus further respectfully submitted that claims 3, 5-7, 9, 11-12, 14, 16 and 18 are dependent on claims 1, 9 and 14, respectively, these claims are also not anticipated by Moynihan. It is thus, further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 4, 8, 13, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 4, 8, 13, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moynihan (US 2002/0056119 A1).

As discussed above, Moynihan neither discloses nor suggests “recording the defined data segment at one of a plurality of user systems connected to the network” as claimed in independent claims 1, 9 and 14 of the present invention. Moynihan actually transmits the data to a common server. Additionally, Moynihan neither discloses nor suggests “transmitting first information identifying the defined data segment to a remote location” as claimed in independent claims 1, 9 and 14 of the present invention. Furthermore, Moynihan neither discloses nor suggests “receiving from the remote location, at each of the plurality of user systems connected to the network, second information identifying the defined data segment” as claimed in independent claims 1, 9 and 14 of the present invention.

The Examiner further contends that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to adjust the start and end points to increase the flexibility of the system as claimed in claims 4, 8, 13, 17 and 19. Moynihan describes “software that resides on the server...permits the user to control his Personal Video Channel and all of the multimedia files brought together on this channel, once the files are loaded onto the server” (see Paragraph [0054]. Moynihan further describes “software [that] allows viewers to comment on whether a video is worth the price” (Para. 55, lines 1-2). This “software” described by Moynihan is not comparable to the “second information identifying the defined data segment” as in the present claimed invention. The second information of the present claimed invention is received “from the remote location, at each of the plurality of user systems connected to the network” and is not software stored on the server as in Moynihan. Additionally, unlike the present claimed invention, Moynihan neither discloses nor suggests that the “second information identifying the defined data segment.” Furthermore, Moynihan neither discloses nor suggests the second information of the present claimed invention let alone that the “second information identifying the position of the defined data segment within a data stream comprises a second starting point and a second ending point of the defined data segment” as claimed in claims 4 and 17 of the present invention.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure in Moynihan showing the above discussed features. It is thus further respectfully submitted that as claims 4, 8, 13, 17 and 19 are dependant on Independent claims 1, 9 and 14, these claims are also not anticipated by Moynihan. It is thus, further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 2, 10 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 2, 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moynihan (US 2002/0056119 A1) in view of Beard (US 6,172,712).

Beard describes a “television with video signal digitizing circuitry for

converting an analog video signal to digitized form and a mass storage device such as a hard disk drive for storing the digitized information” (Col. 1, lines 52-55). The Examiner suggests that Beard discloses a defined data segment comprising of a portion of a television program. However, Beard, similarly to Moynihan, neither discloses nor suggests “recording the defined data segment at one of a plurality of user systems connected to the network” as in the present claimed invention. Beard actually transmits the data to a common server. Additionally, Beard, with Moynihan, neither discloses nor suggests “transmitting first information identifying the defined data segment to a remote location” as in the present claimed invention. Furthermore, Beard, with Moynihan, neither discloses nor suggests “receiving from the remote location, at each of the plurality of user systems connected to the network, second information identifying the defined data segment” as in the present claimed invention.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure in Beard and Moynihan when taken alone or in combination showing the above discussed features. It is thus further respectfully submitted that as claims 2, 10 and 15 are dependant on Independent claims 1, 9 and 14, respectively, they are respectfully submitted as allowable for the same reasons as discussed above in regards to claims 1, 9 and 14. It is thus, further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

The applicant respectfully submits, in view of the above arguments, that the all arguments made by the Examiner have been addressed and this rejection should be withdrawn. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that the present claimed invention is patentable.

Serial No. 10/025,161

PU010318

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry Jay Weber

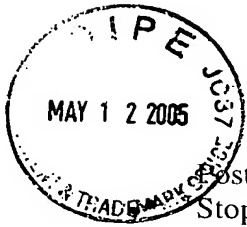
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